



Arizona Department of Public Safety

Press Release

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

DPS update on collision with multiple fatalities that occurred October 26 on Interstate-8

This collision, which occurred yesterday about 35 miles west of Gila Bend on Interstate 8, involved a 1999 Ford Van operated by Superior Shuttle and registered to JAAFCA Incorporated out of Mesa. As reported yesterday, three people, all passengers in the van, died in the collision. Thirteen people, including the driver, were in the van when it lost control and rolled over on the right shoulder of the roadway.

Several passengers were transported by helicopter to trauma centers with serious injuries but none have succumbed to their injuries since transport leaving the total number of fatalities resulting from this collision at three. Safety restraints were in use by the driver and just one of the passengers, who both survived, at the time of the collision which occurred in the westbound lanes.

Next of kin notification has been made reference one of the deceased passengers, Raul Amavizca, 27, of Mexico, who died in the collision.

Next of kin notification is still pending reference the other two passengers who died in the collision, both of Mexico, which occurred at about 7:37 p.m. The cause of the collision is still under investigation. It is confirmed that no children were involved in this collision.

Original Press Release

At about 7:37 p.m. on Sunday, October 26, 2008, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers responded to a single vehicle, serious injury collision westbound on Interstate 8 near milepost 84. The collision involved a commercial transport 16 passenger van. The van was traveling westbound when it lost control and rolled over onto the right shoulder of the roadway. A total of 12 passengers were in the van. Three passengers are confirmed dead at this time. Between five and seven passengers are being transported by helicopter to local area Trauma centers. Two persons are being reported with minor injuries. We have no reports of children being in the van.

The identity of the driver, passengers and transport company name is being withheld pending next of kin notification. The cause of the collision is under investigation. Traffic will only be restricted to allow medical helicopters to land and for the DPS officers to investigate the collision.

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